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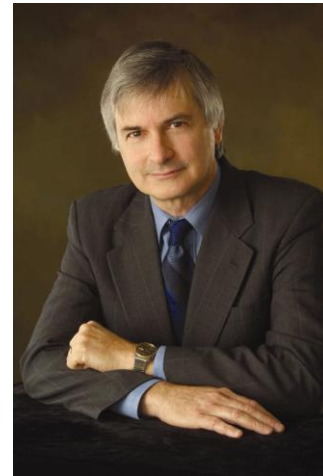
**(828) 322-8169 ext. 339**

## **Are We Alone? Ask SETI expert at CSC on August 23**

Could humans be the only intelligent beings in the cosmic ocean that is the universe? Or, are we just one humble race among a vast intergalactic fraternity of advanced civilizations?

Learn about the ongoing scientific quest to answer these great unknowns -- SETI (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) -- during a lecture at Catawba Science Center in Hickory on Saturday, August 23.

Beginning at 7 p.m., Dr. Seth Shostak, senior astronomer with the SETI Institute in California, will present an hour talk in the Arts & Sciences Center Auditorium about the latest advancements in the Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence. The talk will include a question and answer session.



The SETI lecture will be followed by a reception in CSC's planetarium building.

Tickets for the lecture and reception are \$5 for CSC members and \$8 for nonmembers. Call to purchase tickets in advance.

In honor of Shostak's visit, CSC will present SETI-themed activities throughout the day August 23. From 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., visitors can design and build their own alien in the Inventor's Workshop. This family friendly activity is free with CSC general admission.

That same Saturday, CSC will feature several showings of "SETI: Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence" on the Millholland Planetarium dome at 10:30 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. Catawba Sky, a live star talk, will show at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. that day.

For more information, call (828) 322-8169.

**About SETI Institute**

The SETI Institute is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to scientific research, education and public outreach.

**About Dr. Seth Shostak**

Seth Shostak is Senior Astronomer at the SETI Institute, and has been an observer for Project Phoenix as well as an active participant in various international forums for SETI research.

He is a frequent presenter of the Institute's work in the media, through lectures, and via the Institute's weekly radio show, *Are We Alone?* as the host.

Each Sunday night, Shostak interviews guests who are on the bleeding edge of science discovery and technological advance. The show gives callers the opportunity to ask questions of the world's foremost experts in astrobiology and space exploration.

Shostak readily translates the most complex scientific discoveries into terms accessible to the non-scientist. He has written hundreds of articles for newspapers, magazines, and the SPACE.com web site, as well as three books, including a popular textbook on astrobiology.

Recently awarded the Klumpke-Roberts Award by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the public understanding and appreciation of astronomy, Shostak is also Chair of the International Academy of Astronautics SETI Permanent Study Group.

*Catawba Science Center is a nonprofit science and technology museum in the Western Piedmont with traveling exhibits, a digital planetarium theater and North Carolina's only marine touch tank with live sharks and stingrays. Learn more at [CatawbaScience.org](http://CatawbaScience.org).*

*CSC is funded in part by the United Arts Fund of Catawba County and is located in the Arts and Science Center of Catawba Valley, on the SALT Block, 243 3rd Avenue NE, Hickory.*